ABSTRACT

The invention includes an apparatus for processing an input optical beam. The apparatus has at least one variable optical element to dynamically alter the polarization state of an optical beam to form a polarization-altered optical beam, wherein the polarization-altered optical beam includes elliptical polarization. At least one wave plate operates on the polarization-altered optical beam, each wave plate has a selected retardation, order of retardation, and orientation. A polarization analyzer, operating in conjunction with the at least one variable optical element and wave plate, alters the transmitted amplitude of the polarization-altered optical beam as a function of wavelength, and thereby produces an output optical beam with transmitted amplitude adjusted as a function of wavelength.

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